

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

Notice CRP-344

For: State Offices and Service Centers

Consistency Review of 1999 SRR's to Develop 2000 SRR's

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

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Background

National analysis indicates that rental rates have increased marginally or in some cases even decreased. Because of this, the current posted 1999 SRR's should require minimal adjustments, if any, for FY 2000.

The review and adjustment processes in this notice were established to primarily focus on cross-county and cross-State inconsistencies in posted SRR's for similar soils as identified by CEPD, and KCMO on KCMO SRR Review Report Six (Report Six).

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Purpose

This notice advises State Offices and Service Centers that, effective immediately, DAFP approval is required for all SRR increases.

Note: In the past, some STC's have not been able to reconcile cross-county and cross-State inconsistencies. STC's no longer have authority to approve any SRR increases. Supporting documentation is now required for all SRR increase proposals developed by the County SRR Analysis Teams (County Teams).

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Disposal Date

January 1, 2000

Distribution

State Offices; State Offices relay to Service Centers and NRCS State Offices; FS, 80; CSREES, 5

1 Overview (Continued)

C

Requirements

2000 SRR's shall be set at levels that reflect:

- consistency across all county and State lines and soil survey boundaries
- the average cash rental rates per acre, for dryland cropland for the production of the predominant annually tilled crops during crop years 1996 through 1998

Important: Changes in SRR's shall only be made on a soil-by-soil basis. Extensive and/or "across-the-board" increases are **not** authorized.

- soils where share rents are most common, the cash equivalent of share rents, and summer fallow or double or triple cropping cropland cash rental rates for soils with a predominance of 1 of these cropping patterns.
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2 SRR Review Report Six

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Review Report Six Contents

Report Six lists selected soils/SRR's sorted by soil component name. This report, which is prepared at the county level, is designed to provide information to County and State Teams about those soils that are found in adjacent counties with significant SRR differences. Teams are to make adjustment recommendations to improve SRR consistency across adjacent soil survey/county borders. Unlike the KCMO SRR Review Reports One and Four distributed before signup 18, only selected records that reflect significant SRR differences will appear on Report Six.

The presence of SRR records on this report does not necessarily indicate that unwarranted differences in SRR's are present. Major rivers, mountain ridges, and other natural features that effect market cash rents may warrant substantial differences in SRR's.

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2 SRR Review Report Six (Continued)

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Review Report Six Contents (Continued)

Records listed on Report Six reflect soil components. Because up to 3 components may be present for each soil map unit area, the number of components per map unit are also listed on the report. Soil component records that have matching soil component names, surface texture, slope, and other phase attributes are listed sequentially. Also included is the current posted 1999 SRR for the map unit and the county and State location for each soil component.

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Posting and Printing Report Six

KCMO will post copies of Report Six for applicable States on the Intranet site <http://dc.ffasintranet.usda.gov/DAFP/cepdsto.htm>, option 8.

State Offices shall forward printed copies of the reports to applicable Service Centers and the State NRCS Office.

3 2000 SRR Requirements and Adjustments

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County Team SRR Review Requirements

By the deadline in Exhibit 1, County Teams established to review SRR's before signup 18 shall:

- if the county is listed on Report Six, review the 1999 SRR's listed with applicable neighboring County Teams and develop recommendations for COC's to minimize unwarranted differences in SRR's across county boundaries
- if county is **not** listed on Report Six, review and analyze any other posted 1999 SRR's and develop recommendations for additions, deletions, decreases, and increases to develop 2000 SRR's, if determined necessary by the County Team, for COC's to ensure that subparagraph 1 C requirements are met.

Note: For this consistency review, County Teams shall use soil-survey maps and soil map unit symbol legends in addition to Report Six.

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3 2000 SRR Requirements and Adjustments (Continued)

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County Team SRR Review Requirements (Continued)

- develop recommended adjustments in SRR's based on documented rent, productivity, value, yield, KCMO report, or related soils-level statistics that support the changes and submit recommended changes to COC with this supporting documentation
- submit recommendations, with supporting documentation, for adjustments in the 1999 SRR's to develop 2000 SRR's to COC's by making pen-and-ink revisions to a copy of the current Posting Report.

Notes: This Posting Report should currently be posted on the county bulletin board and can be printed from the County S/36 according to 1-CRP, Part 8.5.

This Posting Report shall be manually labeled "2000 SRR's Recommended by County Team". Negative reports are not required unless otherwise determined necessary by STC.

When substantial differences in posted 1999 SRR's across county or soil survey boundaries are identified that are not warranted by real differences in market rental rates, 1 or both County Teams must develop recommendations for 2000 SRR's to resolve the differences. Cross-boundary discrepancies should be resolved by rate compromises that entail both **increases and decreases**.

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Developing COC Proposals Using County Team Recommended Adjustments

When provided with recommendations for SRR adjustments, COC shall:

- review County Team recommendations for SRR adjustments and supporting documentation
- ensure that subparagraph 1 C requirements are met
- modify the County Team recommended SRR's, if needed to develop 2000 SRR's
- ensure that COC adjustment proposals are sent to the State SRR Analysis Team (State Team), by the deadline in Exhibit 1, by forwarding to SED, ATTN: CRP program specialist

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3 2000 SRR Requirements and Adjustments (Continued)

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Developing COC Proposals Using County Team Recommended Adjustments (Continued)

Note: COC's shall submit recommendations for changes to the 1999 SRR's to the State Team by making pen-and-ink changes to the County Team report and relabeling the report "2000 SRR's Proposed by COC". Negative reports are not required unless otherwise established by the State Office.

- document in the COC minutes:
 - County Team recommendations
 - COC proposals, including any negative reports.

County Teams and COC's are authorized to develop needed SRR adjustment proposals in 1 unified effort when agreed to locally.

4 State Team and STC Review

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State Teams

By the deadline in Exhibit 1, State Teams, which were established to review SRR's before signup 18, shall:

- receive proposals from COC's to increase, decrease, add, or remove 1999 soils/SRR's to develop 2000 SRR's
- review all contents of Report Six

Note: Report Six will only list counties with soils that are found in adjacent counties with significant SRR differences.

- review and modify if/as necessary, a copy of the COC proposals and develop new recommendations for all counties to ensure that the requirements of subparagraph 1 C are met
- consult with all applicable contiguous State Offices to ensure that 2000 SRR proposals are consistent across State lines.

Important: State Teams must develop proposals that ensure 2000 SRR consistency between all county and State lines, even for adjacent counties that do not develop consensus recommendations to resolve unwarranted SRR discrepancies.

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4 State Team and STC Review

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STC

Determination of Appropriate 1999 SRR's and Approval

STC shall:

- consult with the State Team and review proposals for:
 - increases
 - decreases
 - new and/or deleted 1999 soils/SRR's
 - supporting documentation
- with State NRCS concurrence, and concurrence from applicable contiguous STC's, determine the appropriate 1999 SRR adjustment for each soil necessary according to subparagraph 1 C requirements

Note: The basis for any adjustment, new soils, or deletion must be documented in the STC minutes. \$0 is not an authorized 2000 SRR.

- **not** approve any increases in SRR's until written authorization is obtained from DAFP
- **not** delegate SRR approval authority.

STC's are authorized, with concurrence from the State NRCS Office and each applicable neighboring FSA STC, to:

- approve **decreases** in SRR's, add new soils/SRR's, including dual soils/SRR's, and delete soils/SRR's
- approve consolidation of SRR groupings for those counties with more than 6 groupings of SRR's for which STC determines fewer groupings are suitable, without DAFP authorization for 2000 posting.

Note: This consolidation must reduce the number of groupings by consolidating the soils into the higher and lower groupings. STC may reduce the number of groupings down to no less than 6 groupings. In all cases, when consolidation is done, both the low- and high-end SRR's shall be adjusted. STC's shall not consolidate just the low-end group rates and not an equivalent number of high-end group rates.

5 Submitting SRR Increases

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STC Submission of All Proposed SRR Increases

After STC determines the appropriate SRR adjustments, the State Office shall:

- review and identify **all** SRR increases and submit to DAFP by BBS or e-mail for approval
- FAX to 816-926-6157, all supporting documentation for SRR increases, which must include:
 - market rental values
 - yields
 - productivity
 - value
 - KCMO report
 - related statistics by soil developed at the soil level
 - COC/STC minutes and/or recommendations
- only submit increase requests for individual soils, using the following format:

STC Proposed Increases in SRR's Submitted for DAFP Approval				
State and County Code	Soil Survey Area ID Number	Soil Map Unit Symbol	1999 SRR Currently Posted at	Proposed 2000 SRR Determined Appropriate by STC
1001	1001	AA43	\$26	\$32
1001	1001	A3DW	\$46	\$63
1001	1001	FF3R	\$34	\$52
1001	1001	2SSER	\$18	\$26

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5 Submitting SRR Increases (Continued)

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**STC Submission
of All Proposed
SRR Increases**

Notes: When submitting material through the BBS or through Internet e-mail, ensure the following information is provided:

- name and telephone number of State Office specialist to contact with questions
- name and telephone number of State Office personnel to contact for a copy of STC minutes or recommendations
- a statement affirming concurrence has been obtained from the State NRCS Office and adjoining State FSA Offices, if they have contiguous counties.

Addresses for BBS and/or Internet e-mail are as follows:

- **Karen McGinnis** through BBS message
- **KSMCGINNIS@kcc.fsa.usda.gov** through Internet e-mail.

Notes: Contact Karen McGinnis at 816-926-2164 to notify of the submissions through BBS, e-mail, and FAX.

Requests to increase county average SRR's, or similar "across-the-board" changes that do not entail soil level increase proposals will be disapproved.

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6 Action

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Service Center Recommended Adjustments in 1999 SRR's

This table identifies the steps Service Centers shall take to recommend adjustments in 1999 SRR's to develop 2000 SRR's.

Step	Service Center Actions
1	Convene a meeting of the County Team, which must include a representative from FSA and NRCS, and provide copies of this notice to all team members.
2	County Teams shall use Report Six when provided. Review and analyse the current posted 1999 SRR's, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• review of adjacent county rates for consistency• identification of any rates that may not meet the requirements in subparagraph 1 C• identification of new soils that should be added to the posted list.
3	County Teams shall, if necessary, forward any SRR adjustment recommendations to COC, and/or negative report, if required by STC.
4	Seek STC approval of SRR adjustments determined necessary by COC according to this notice.
5	After receiving any approved adjustments from DAFP, post adjusted 2000 SRR's on the county bulletin board and update S/36 SRR table files according to 1-CRP, Part 8.5.
6	Retain a printed copy of the current and adjusted 2000 SRR's in the county CRP file. Note: Service Centers with no SRR adjustments do not need to take any action.
7	Make no retroactive changes in CRP-1 payment rates. Note: After approved changes are posted, notify any producers that offered land for enrollment in continuous signup who do not have approved CRP-1's, with soils identified by the County Team that may be adjusted, that they have the option to modify their CRP-2 with adjusted SRR's.

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6 Action (Continued)

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State Office Recommended Adjustments in 1999 SRR's This table identifies the steps State Offices shall take to recommend adjustments in 1999 SRR's to develop 2000 SRR's.

Step	State Office Actions
1	Convene meetings of the State Team to support County Team/COC SRR analysis.
2	Forward copies of all KCMO SRR Review Report Six, or negative reports, when available by Intranet, to Service Centers and NRCS State Offices, by the deadline in Exhibit 1.
3	<p>Convene State Team meetings to monitor and facilitate County Team/COC SRR review activities and to work with contiguous States, if needed, to resolve substantial SRR discrepancies across State lines, to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • needed County Team recommendations are made to COC • COC adjustment requests and State Team recommendations are submitted to STC • concurrence from the State NRCS Office and from all applicable contiguous FSA STC's is obtained • STC requests DAFP approval for all SRR increases.
4	<p>If SRR changes are approved, prepare and distribute adjusted 2000 SRR's for needed Service Centers by the deadline in Exhibit 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now that SRR's have been automated on the State S/36, State Offices do not need to distribute approved SRR adjustments to Service Centers by editing a copy of the WordPerfect SRR file maintained in the State Office. Before discontinuing the use of WordPerfect files, State Offices must verify that all posted SRR's, as listed in the State S/36, match those maintained in the State's WordPerfect files. • State Offices may distribute approved SRR adjustments using the same table format provided in this notice for DAFP increase requests, or similar format. Retain copies of all records in the State CRP file. • Include the "STC Effective Date of 12/3/99" for all SRR adjustment correspondence to Service Centers. This date is a required entry in the County S/36 for SRR's. • Include the words "2000 Approved Adjusted SRR's." No action is needed for Counties with no SRR adjustments, Sys/36 will automatically convert 1999 SRR's to 2000 SRR's for counties with no changes. • Ensure that a second party review is conducted on the prepared tables before distribution of the rates to Service Centers to ensure accuracy. Retain a printed and an electronic copy, if available, of the current and adjusted 2000 SRR's in the State Office.

1999 SRR Deadlines

Requirements		
Step	Action	Deadline
1	State Offices shall access Intranet copies of KCMO SRR Review Report Six and forward to applicable Service Centers and State NRCS Offices.	September 10, 1999
2	If needed, County Teams shall submit recommended changes to 1999 SRR with supporting documentation to COC.	September 24, 1999
3	COC shall make any needed modifications to the County Teams' recommendations and submit 2000 SRR proposal to the State Team.	October 8, 1999
4	STC, in consultation with State Teams, shall review State Team and COC recommendations. STC shall submit all SRR increase proposals to DAFP for approval.	October 29, 1999
5	DAFP, in consultation with the National Team, shall review SRR increase proposals from STC's, and approve or deny requests.	November 24, 1999
6	After STC receives any needed DAFP approval, STC publishes 2000 SRR's and distributes them to applicable Service Centers.	To be posted in Service Centers before December 3, 1999.
